IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace all claims in the instant application with the listing below canceling claims 1-41, and adding claims 42-82 as follows:

Claims 1-41 (Canceled)

42. (New) A wireless system for data communicating cashless vending transaction data and vending machine audit data to remote locations comprising:

a vending machine controller interconnected with a vending machine, said vending machine controller further comprising a plurality of peripheral device interfaces;

a vending interface unit (VIU) interconnected with at least one of said plurality of peripheral device interfaces, said VIU effectuates cashless vending transactions and obtains vending machine audit data from said vending machine controller, said VIU further comprising a first transceiver; and

a base unit, said base unit further comprising a second transceiver, wherein said first transceiver and said second transceiver wirelessly data communicate, said base unit further comprising a communication interface for data communicating with a remote location;

wherein said VIU data communicates wirelessly with said remote location by way of said base unit.

43. (New) The wireless system in accordance with claim 42, wherein said first transceiver, and or said second transceiver is at least one of the following types of transceiver:

i) a single channel transceiver;
ii) a dual channel transceiver;
iii) a spread spectrum transceiver;
iv) a single channel transceiver in the 430Mhz range;
v) a dual channel transceiver in the 430Mhz range;
vi) a spread spectrum transceiver in the 430Mhz range;
vii) a single channel transceiver in the 900Mhz range;
viii) a dual channel transceiver in the 900Mhz range;
ix) a spread spectrum transceiver in the 900Mhz range;
x) a single channel transceiver in the 2.4Ghz range;
xi) a dual channel transceiver in the 2.4Ghz range; or
xii) a spread spectrum transceiver in the 2.4Ghz range.

44. (New) The wireless system in accordance with claim 42, wherein said base unit, while in a non data communicating mode of operation with said VIU, receives a signal from said remote location and broadcasts, in response to said signal, a polling signal to said VIU, receipt of said polling signal causing said VIU, in a timely manner, to initiate a data communication session with said remote location.

45. (New) The wireless system in accordance with claim 42, wherein at least one of the following communicates half duplex:

i) said first transceiver; or
ii) said second transceiver.

46. (New) The wireless system in accordance with claim 42, wherein at least one of the following communicates full duplex:

i) said first transceiver; or
ii) said second transceiver.

47. (New) The wireless system in accordance with claim 42, wherein said remote location is at least one of the following:

i) a credit bureau;
ii) a network center;
iii) a global network based data processing resource; or
iv) USALIVE.

48. (New) The wireless system in accordance with claim 42, wherein said communication interface is at least one of the following:

i) a modem interface;
ii) a network connection;
iii) an interactive interface;
iv) a serial interface; or
v) a wireless interface.

49. (New) The wireless system in accordance with claim 48, wherein said wireless interface is an interface to at least one of the following wireless devices:

i) PCS network data modem;
ii) cellular network data modem;
iii) CDPD modem;

iv) CDMA modem;
v) 2G wireless modem;
vi) 3G wireless modem; or
vii) RIM data modem.

50. (New) The wireless system in accordance with claim 48, wherein said wireless interface is a local area network connection.

51. (New) The wireless system in accordance with claim 48, wherein said wireless interface is a wide area network connection.

52. (New) The wireless system in accordance with claim 42, wherein more than one of said VIU data communicates with said base unit.

53. (New) The wireless system in accordance with claim 42, wherein said VIU wirelessly programs said base unit.

54. (New) The wireless system in accordance with claim 42, wherein said VIU wirelessly programs the baud rate of said communication interface to match the baud rate of said remote location.

55. (New) The wireless system in accordance with claim 42, wherein said peripheral device interface is at least one of the following:

i) a multi-drop-bus (MDB) interface;
ii) a coin acceptor interface;
iii) a bill acceptor interface;
iv) a serial interface; or
vi) a data exchange (DEX) interface.

56. (New) The wireless system in accordance with claim 42, wherein said base unit is a wall mount unit.

57. (New) The wireless system in accordance with claim 42, wherein data communication between said base unit and said remote location is effectuated with a phone line.

58. (New) The wireless system in accordance with claim 42, wherein data communication between said base unit and said remote location is effectuated with a network connection.

59. (New) The wireless system in accordance with claim 42, wherein data communication between said VIU and said base unit is encrypted.

60. (New) The wireless system in accordance with claim 42, wherein data communication between said VIU and said base unit is encrypted and data communication between said base unit and said remote location is unencrypted.

61. (New) The wireless system in accordance with claim 42, wherein a plurality of wireless packets data communicated from said VIU are received at said base unit and communicated to said remote location without packet level error checking at said base unit, said remote location assembles said plurality of wireless packets into a data message, said remote location error checks said data message, said remote location communicates an acknowledge or not-acknowledge, based on error check results of said data message, to said VIU by way of said base unit.

62. (New) The wireless system in accordance with claim 42, wherein cashless transaction data and vending machine audit data is selectively data communicated to said remote location when said remote location is at least one of the following:

i) a network center;
ii) a global network based data processing resource; or
iii) USALIVE;

and cashless transaction data only is selectively data communicated to said remote location when said remote location is a credit bureau.

63. (New) A wireless system for data communicating cashless vending transaction data and vending machine audit data to remote locations comprising:

a vending machine controller interconnected with a vending machine, said vending machine controller further comprising a plurality of peripheral device interfaces, said plurality of peripheral device interfaces include at least one of the following types of interfaces:

i) a multi-drop-bus (MDB) interface; or
ii) a data exchange (DEX) interface;

a vending interface unit (VIU) interconnected with at least one of said plurality of peripheral device interfaces, said VIU further comprising a first transceiver; and

a base unit, said base unit further comprising a second transceiver, wherein said first transceiver and said second transceiver wirelessly data communicate, said base unit further comprising a wireless device, said wireless device data communicates with a remote location;

wherein said VIU data communicates wirelessly with said remote location by way of said base unit.

64. (New) The wireless system in accordance with claim 63, wherein said first transceiver, and or said second transceiver is at least one of the following types of transceiver:

i) a single channel transceiver;
ii) a dual channel transceiver;
iii) a spread spectrum transceiver;
iv) a single channel transceiver in the 430Mhz range;
v) a dual channel transceiver in the 430Mhz range;
vi) a spread spectrum transceiver in the 430Mhz range;
vii) a single channel transceiver in the 900Mhz range;
viii) a dual channel transceiver in the 900Mhz range;
ix) a spread spectrum transceiver in the 900Mhz range;
x) a single channel transceiver in the 2.4Ghz range;
xi) a dual channel transceiver in the 2.4Ghz range; or
xii) a spread spectrum transceiver in the 2.4Ghz range.

65. (New) The wireless system in accordance with claim 63, wherein said base unit, while in a non data communicating mode of operation with said VIU, receives a signal from said remote location and broadcasts, in response to said signal, a polling signal to said VIU, receipt of said polling signal causing said VIU, in a timely manner, to initiate a data communication session with said remote location.

66. (New) The wireless system in accordance with claim 63, wherein said VIU wirelessly programs the baud rate of said modem to match the baud rate of said remote location.

67. (New) The wireless system in accordance with claim 63, wherein cashless transaction data and vending machine audit data is selectively data communicated to said remote location when said remote location is at least one of the following:

i) a network center;
ii) a global network based data processing resource; or
iii) USALIVE;

and cashless transaction data only is selectively data communicated to said remote location when said remote location is a credit bureau.

68. (New) A method of wirelessly data communicating cashless transaction data, and vending machine audit data to remote locations comprising the steps of:

a) determining, at a vending interface unit (VIU), the availability of a base unit for data communication, said VIU being installed in a vending machine, said vending machine further comprising a vending machine controller, said vending machine controller further comprising a plurality of peripheral device interfaces, said VIU being interconnected to said plurality of peripheral device interfaces, said base unit further comprising a communication interface;
b) communicating data wirelessly between said VIU and said base unit to determine if said communication interface is in use;
c) receiving wirelessly at said base unit a first plurality of data from said VIU;
d) passing received said first plurality of data to said remote location;
e) receiving at said base unit a second plurality of data from said remote location;
f) passing wirelessly received said second plurality of data to said VIU; and
g) terminating selectively data communication.

69. (New) The method of wirelessly data communicating in accordance with claim 68 further comprising the step of:

a) programming selectively said base unit operating characteristics by way of wireless data communication between said VIU and said base unit, wherein said VIU remotely configures said base unit.

70. (New) The method of wirelessly data communicating in accordance with claim 68, wherein determining in step 'a', at a VIU, the availability of a base unit for data communication further comprising the steps of:

a) listening at said VIU for a status packet wirelessly data communicated from said base unit indicating the current state of said base unit; and
b) broadcasting wirelessly, from said VIU a wake-up command, when said status packet is not received at said VIU.

71. (New) The method of wirelessly data communicating in accordance with claim 70, wherein said status packet includes said base unit state conditions indicating at least one of the following:

i) base unit is available;
ii) base unit is busy;
iii) a packet counter; or
iv) a polling signal.

72. (New) The method of wirelessly data communicating in accordance with claim 68, wherein said plurality of peripheral device interfaces is at least one of the following:

i) a multi-drop-bus (MDB) interface;
ii) a coin acceptor interface;
iii) a bill acceptor interface;
iv) a serial interface; or
v) a data exchange (DEX) interface.

73. (New) The method of wirelessly data communicating in accordance with claim 69, wherein programming in step 'a' selectively said base unit operating characteristics includes said VIU wirelessly programming the baud rate of said communication interface to match the baud rate of said remote location.

74. (New) The method of wirelessly data communicating in accordance with claim 68, wherein said communication interface is at least one of the following:

i) a modem interface;
ii) a network connection;
iii) an interactive interface;
iv) a serial interface; or
v) a wireless interface.

75. (New) The method of wirelessly data communicating in accordance with claim 74, wherein said wireless interface is an interface to at least one of the following wireless devices:

i) PCS network data modem;
ii) wireless modem;
iii) cellular network data modem;
iv) CDPD modem;
v) CDMA modem;

vi) 2G type wireless modem;
vii) 3G type wireless modem; or
viii) RIM data modem.

76. (New) The method of wirelessly data communicating in accordance with claim 68, wherein said remote location is at least one of the following:

i) a credit bureau;
ii) a network center;
iii) a global network based data processing resource; or
vi) USALIVE.

77. (New) The method of wirelessly data communicating in accordance with claim 68, wherein data communication between said base unit and a network of a plurality of said VIU are managed by way of each of said VIU listening to a status packet transmitted from said base unit to determine the availability and current state of said base unit prior to initiating data communication with said base unit.

78. (New) The method of wirelessly data communicating in accordance with claim 68, wherein terminating in step 'g' includes terminating data communication between said base unit and said remote location at the request of at least one of the following:

i) said VIU;
ii) said base unit; or
iii) said remote location.

79. (New) The method of wirelessly data communicating in accordance with claim 68, wherein steps 'c', 'd', 'e', and 'f' repeat until at least one of the following data processing devices data communicates a terminate message:

i) said VIU;

ii) said base unit; or

iii) said remote location.

80. (New) The method of wirelessly data communicating in accordance with claim 68, wherein said first plurality of data is at least one of the following:

i) said vending machine DEX data; or

ii) said vending machine MDB data.

81. (New) The method of wirelessly data communicating in accordance with claim 68, wherein said first plurality of data is cashless vending transaction data.

82. (New) The method of wirelessly data communicating in accordance with claim 68, wherein said second plurality of data is said VIU configuration data.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that prior to examination please cancel claims 1-41, and add claims 42-82.

With regards to the claims:

- Applicant has canceled 41 claims and added 41 claims.
- Applicant has not changed the number of independent claims.
- As such, a fee for additional independent and or excess claims is not required.

Respectfully Submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

December 13, 2004

H. Brock Kolls